

This is the first definite record for Essex County, although in the early days this goose is believed to have been a not uncommon migrant. Howe and Allen in their 'Birds of Massachusetts' give only two definite records for the State. One of these was shot in Quincy about 1849, the other at Plymouth on November 26, 1897.

On August 18, 1907, a young female Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) was shot at Salisbury, Mass., and sent to Faneuil Hall Market, Boston. Here it was identified by Mr. John H. Hardy, Jr., and kindly given by him to the writer, in whose collection it now rests. This is the second instance of the capture of this western Phalarope in Essex County, and the fourth for the State. One of these was taken near Boston about 1833; one was taken in Essex County, at Nahant, on May 20, 1874, and one was taken at Nantucket on August 31, 1889.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., *Boston, Mass.*

Rallus virginianus a Delaware Valley Breeder.—In my numerous explorations of the Pensauken Creek marshes during the past four years I failed to find this bird until June, 1907. It was on the morning of the 15th that Mr. B. W. Griffiths and I were standing in front of our woodland cabin looking out over the marsh when a Virginia Rail came to the edge of the ditch which divides the marsh here and is used to get our boats from the house to the creek. The bird crossed the ditch and disappeared among the vegetation whence it uttered a number of clucking notes and, to our surprise, there appeared at the ditch's edge four black, downy young rails. One after another they took to the water in the ditch and swam across disappearing among the spatter-docks and water-arum. This was on the Camden County side of Pensauken Creek, N. J., and about seven miles from the Philadelphia City Hall.—CHRISWELL J. HUNT, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

The Florida Gallinule, Stilt and Buff-breasted Sandpipers near Portland, Me., in 1907.—On October 15, a female Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) was shot at Atlantic House Pond, Scarborough Maine. It passed into my collection. Its gullet contained three specimens of *Planorbis campanulatus*, and its stomach another. In the gizzard were a number of seeds. I am not aware of the previous capture of the bird at Scarborough, though two are recorded from Falmouth in 1894 (*cf.* Brock, *Auk*, XIII, p. 255).

The only Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) that I have heard of in this vicinity this fall was taken near Pine Point, Scarborough, a day or two previous to September 26. It passed into the collection of Bowdoin College.

On September 5, a beautiful male Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) was taken in Scarborough, near Pine Point. It is now in my collection. Mr. Blanchard Pillsbury who brought it to my attention,

informs me that it is the only specimen that has come to his notice for at least three years.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.*

The Ruff at Seabrook, N. H.—On September 24, 1907, I received a specimen of a European Ruff (*Pavoncella pugnax*) shot at Seabrook, N. H. The bird was a young female and the man who sent it to me said it was in company with a flock of ten or twelve Beetle-head Plover.

I would like to add—as some one not very long ago stated in 'The Auk' that he considered the Stilt Sandpiper extremely rare in Massachusetts—that I have within two years received 18 or 20 birds of this species in one day from near Newburyport, Mass.—JOHN H. HARDY, JR., *Arlington, Mass.*

Capture of the White-winged Dove in the State of Washington.—It gives me pleasure to record the capture of an adult female White-winged Dove (*Melopelia leucoptera*), which I collected Nov. 7, 1907, in the Puyallup River Valley. It forms the first record for this species for the State of Washington. It was alone and rather wild, necessitating a long wing shot to secure it. The feet and feathers being in perfect condition excludes any possibility of its being a cage-bird, even if such a thing were likely in this part of the country.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Wash.*

Capture of the American Goshawk and Harris's Sparrow near Chicago, Ill.—A fine specimen of the American Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) was shot by L. E. Wyman, in the woods at River Forest on the Desplaines River, near Chicago, October 19, 1907. The bird, a female, was in magnificent plumage and of unusual size, measuring 25 inches in length with a spread of 46½ inches. The stomach was entirely empty, but a feast was in sight in the shape of a large white hen, which it lifted several feet from the ground; the second time both settled to earth after a shot from a small 44-gauge collecting gun, the hen escaping under the fence to the barnyard near by.

Nelson reported them very rare in 1876, and the only records for this section of Illinois are that of Woodruff, who shot a male March 30, 1889, and the two instances mentioned in Mr. Ruthven Deane's article on the American Goshawk, in 'The Auk,' for April, 1907.

I might mention another rare bird taken by Mr. Wyman October 13, 1907, at Beach, Lake Co., Ill., a male Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). It flushed from the ground to a small pine in company with a lot of Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*). Nelson reported this sparrow rare in 1876, and since then the specimen obtained by J. O. Dunn in 1895, and one seen in Lincoln Park by Ruthven Deane May 11, 1904, seem to be the only other records.—FRANK S. DAGGETT, *Chicago, Ill.*

A Large Migration of Hawks.—The guests at Lake Minnewaska, N. Y., had an opportunity in September to see the migration of large numbers of